

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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LIBYA: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS MAY BE HEADED DOWN-HILL.

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THE RULING REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL IS NOW DE-BATING THIS ISSUE AMONG OTHERS. ONE FACTION IS URG-ING THAT THE US BE GIVEN UP AS A HOPELESS CASE, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH WEIGHT THIS FACTION CARRIES.

SINCE THE COUP LAST YEAR, THE NEW REGIME HAS IDENTIFIED WITH THE RADICAL ARAB STATES THAT BROKE RELATIONS WITH THE US DURING THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR IN 1967. THE MAIN SOURCE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS--THE OCCUPATION OF WHEELUS AIR BASE--WAS RESOLVED BY THE US DECISION TO EVACUATE THE BASE BY 3D JUNE.

AN IMMEDIATE PRETEXT FOR THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT
TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE US WOULD BE A NEGATIVE
REPLY TO A REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL F-5S ORIGINALLY
SOUGHT BY THE MONARCHY. THE SUBSTANTIAL US OIL INTERESTS IN LIBYA ARE VULNERABLE TO POSSIBLE POLITICALLY INSPIRED ACTIONS AGAINST THEM.

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